

John P. Kaufman  
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DEAR HAROLD,

JUST GOT YOUR LETTER. IT SURE IS NICE TO BE BACK IN TOUCH. IF I AM IN THE WASHINGTON D.C. AREA - I WILL BE SURE TO CALL AND - HOPEFULLY - VISIT FOR A LITTLE WHILE. YOU TWO ARE SOME OF MY FAVORITE FOLKS, AFTER ALL.

I ESPECIALLY AM REMINDED OF L.I. NOW AS I SIT AND TRY TO WRITE THIS AMIDST THE PITTER OF TWELVE TINY FEET - FOR I HAVE ADOPTED THREE KITTENS. ANIMALS ARE GOOD TO BE AMONGST - FOR THEY REMIND YOU THAT HUMANS ARE BUT ONE PART OF AN EVER - GROWING UNIVERSE, THESE THREE THINK MY TINY APARTMENT IS A BIG PLAYGROUND - COMPLETE WITH JUNGLE JIM AND SWING SET! HOW CAN SOMEONE THAT SMALL MAKE SO MUCH NOISE?

OLIVER STONE IS DANGEROUS FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST OF ALL - AS A FILM DIRECTOR - HE IS QUITE GOOD. HIS TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE OF HOW TO TELL A STORY IS ACUTE. STONE - AS A WRITER - IS BLUNT. HE PRESENTS CHARACTERS WHO SYMBOLIZE IDEAS. IF HE WAS A LOUSY HACK - HE WOULD BE EASY TO DISMISS, AS IT IS - HE IS FINANCIALLY

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SUCCESSFUL. IN HOLLYWOOD - SUCCESS BREEDS POWER AND THE ABILITY TO CREATE MORE WORK. IN STONE'S CASE - THIS MEANS FREEDOM TO DISTORT HISTORY TO AN EVER - GREATER EXTENT.

SECONDLY, STONE IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS THE MEDIA (TV, PRINT, RADIO) AND REALIZES HOW TO USE IT TO HIS BEST ADVANTAGE. HE HAS UNLIMITED ACCESS TO TV AND PRINT AND NEVER FAILS TO GAIN MAXIMUM EXPOSURE FOR HIS VARIOUS DOINGS.

THE OLIVER STONE SITUATION REMINDS ME OF THE CASE OF GERMAN FILMAKER LEVI REIFENSTALH. SHE WAS A FILMAKER OF ORIGINALITY AND POWER WHOSE WORK IS STILL STUDIED BY FILM STUDENTS AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF DOCUMENTARY EXCELLENCE. YET REIFENSTALH'S MOST FAMOUS WORKS ARE THE TRIUMPH OF THE WILL AND OLYMPIAD WHICH ARE PRO - HITLER PROPAGANDA PIECES. GREAT, CREATIVE TALENT USED TO BAD PURPOSE IS VERY, VERY DANGEROUS.

WHILE STONE'S PLATOON AND SALVADOR ARE WELL MADE FILMS - WITHIN THEM - HISTORY IS BADLY SERVED. I GREW UP IN THE SIXTIES - AND

FOLLOWED THE ROCK MUSIC SCENE WITH GREAT INTEREST. STONE'S PREVIOUS MOVIE: THE DOORS IS A TISSUE OF LIES AND DISTORTIONS. HE CREATED A SENSATIONALISTIC DIATRIBE IN THE GUISE OF "PRESENTING HISTORY" AND MUDDIED THE WATERS OF TRUTH WITH HIS PREVARICATIONS.

OLIVER STONE CARES LITTLE FOR HISTORY. HIS CAREER IS A STUDY IN OPPORTUNISM. HE TAKES "BIG ISSUES" AND USES THEM TO ADVANCE HIS CAREER. HE NO MORE CARES ABOUT THE TRUTH OF VIETNAM (PLATOON), CENTRAL AMERICA (SALVADOR), THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT (BORN ON THE 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY) OR THE TRAGIC LOSS OF A PRESIDENT (JFK) THAN HE DOES ABOUT THE TRUTH OF HIS OWN LIFE WHICH HE CONSTANTLY RE-WRITES TO SUIT THE OCCASION.

STONE - IN REALITY - BELIEVES THE WORDS OF GORON GEEKO - HERO OF HIS FILM WALL STREET: "GREED - FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD - IS GOOD. THAT IS WHAT MR. STONE IS REALLY ALL ABOUT.

I DON'T THINK OF YOU AS AN "ASSASSINATION BUFF". I THINK OF YOU AS A HISTORICAL RESEARCHER TRYING TO PROVIDE CLUES INTO THE TRUTH OF THE

FOULEST DEED IN RECENT AMERICAN HISTORY.  
 IN YEARS TO COME - AFTER OLIVER STONE'S WORK  
 IS LEFT ON A DUSTY SHELF OF SOME FILM LIBRARY -  
 YOUR DEDICATED - AGAINST ALL ODDS - QUEST FOR  
 TRUTH - WILL BE SEEN AS A VALUABLE SERVICE  
 PERFORMED FOR ALL OF US.

HAROLD, I HAVE TO ASK THREE SIMPLE QUESTIONS?

1. TO THE BEST OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE - WHO  
 KILLED PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY?
2. WHY?
3. WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE REAL RELATIONSHIP  
 OF OSWALD, RUBY, THE CIA, THE MAFIA AND  
 OTHERS NOW SUSPECTED OF TAKING PART IN THE  
 MURDER OF THE PRESIDENT?

ARE THERE ANY CLEAR ANSWERS?  
 WILL WE EVER KNOW THE TRUTH?

MY BEST TO YOU AND LIL. AS I SAID - AT  
 THE BEGINNING OF THIS LETTER - IT SURE IS  
 NICE TO BE BACK IN TOUCH.

John P. Kaufman  
 6 Maple Street  
 Gardner, MA 01440

Sincerely,  
 John